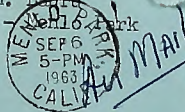


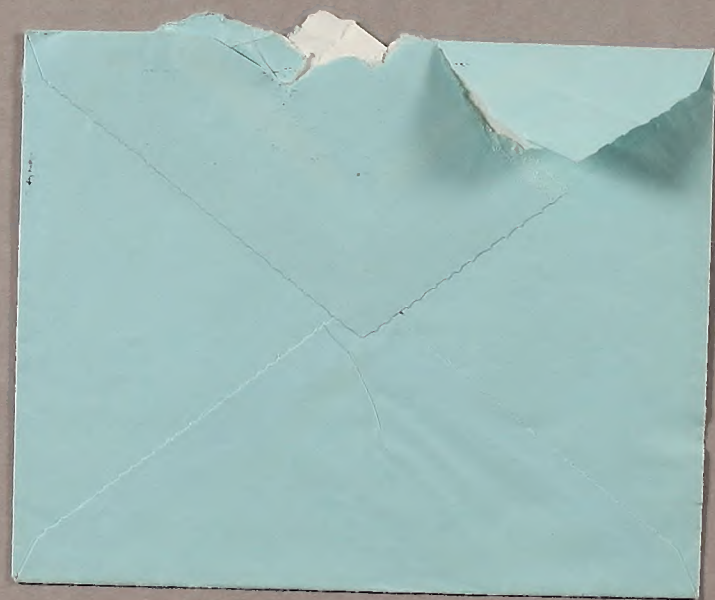
From: Mrs. C. H. Lewis
P. O. Box 816 - 164 Ark
California



PRAY
FOR
PEACE



Mr. Godfrey Ridout
71 Rowanwood Avenue
Toronto - 5
Ontario
Canada



P. O. Box 816 - Menlo Park - California

September 6, 1963

Dear Mr. Ridout:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 2, telling me of Kathleen Parlow's death. The world seems to me just a little less full of sweet sounds and music, the hum and bustle persist and meaningless noises, - but that strong sweet tone that gave direction and purpose is gone, - of course. And somehow her passing makes me feel lonely and bereft although I saw her so very seldom, - but, with little Beautiful Strad in her hands singing away I feel as if often our thoughts kept pace. But I am so glad that life did not condemn her to an eternity of illness as with her mother. I am glad for her, and glad for all of you in Toronto to whom she was so devoted. And I am so pleased to think she had her beloved Joseph to the end. It was because I so greatly feared a long old age for her, - remembering her mother, - that I kept little B. Strad in her hands so that Joseph could be sold for her benefit if needed and she would still have a "good" fiddle in her hands. That was my little effort to provide for her last years. To make sure of this, - for I too, am mortal, - three years or so ago I gave the Strad to Stanford University on the understanding that Kathleen would have possession of it for her life. This was done by formal gift deed.

Therefore, yesterday, September 5, I notified the legal department of the University, Mr. Darryl Pearson in particular of Miss Parlow's death, gave him your address and requested him to write to you without delay and take charge of the fiddle.

Inasmuch as I know that Kathleen had a second fiddle of her own, and I do not know that you are a violinist or musician and hence may or may not know which fiddle is L.B. and which is her other instrument - (supposing, of course, that it was still in her possession at the time of her death) - I recommended that to avoid any confusion of instruments, that Mr. Pearson send you a photostatic copy of the Sylvestre and Maucotel guarantee on the Strad which gives a detailed description of the instrument, and ask you to have it checked by a very good old violin man, - he did repairs etc. for Kathleen, - whose name as I recall it is a German one, Schmidt, and I believe, in Toronto, - before it is sent to Stanford. I suggested to Mr. Pearson that the instrument be sent to Stanford by air. I feel sure the Insurance Company will also be interested in all these doings.

The case: - yes, the Strad had its own case, and also and outer case of tin, - and it had also two very fine bows, and if I recollect correctly they fitted into its case. By this you may be able to trace the case.

I told Mr. Pearson to pass on to the Stanford Music Department word that Miss Parlow's things were to be sold as they might well be quite interested in her musical library and music collection. I also added that Joseph's, would be for sale & the price should be around \$40,000. - I hope I am not wrong.

I have a suggestion to make to which I hope you will take kindly. That is, I hope you will write to one of the best Toronto daily papers, and possibly also to the C.B.C. and see that the terms of Kathleen's will are made known to the public, and suggest that the reason for this is that the public might well be interested in purchasing many of her things for the University, such as her books and music, - and let us hope Joseph, too.

I really very strongly feel this should be done, - otherwise Joseph will almost certainly be lost to Canada.

However, in mentioning Joseph please also say that this is a living instrument and must be played upon and not placed in a museum.

(In giving L.B. Strad. to Stanford I stipulated that it should be used and not placed in a museum.)

If you act upon my suggestion, I shall be very happy to send you a small contribution. You see, I believe there are many large-minded and large hearted Canadians, and in this way the University could have not only these interesting and beautiful and useful treasures, but also the scholarship funds. Kathleen is well remembered in this country also. She had such spirit and a great heart, and I am sure I am but one of many who will always remember her and her music.

Thank you for writing to me so promptly,

Yours sincerely,

M.C. Lawrence